

Indian Chieftain.

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R. W. WALKER, the newly elected associate justice of the supreme court, enjoys the distinction of being the first white man ever on the supreme bench of this nation.

With last week's issue H. M. Adair retires from the editorial chair of the Cherokee Advocate. Mr. Adair has earned the reputation of being an honest man, if nothing more.

The selection of Dick Wolfe by the senate as its president places that gentleman easily in the lead of the dominant party in this nation. His chances for being the next chief are extremely good.

A MAN'S mouth can give him away in the lower house of the Cherokee council as quickly and as effectively as any place under the sun, and some members are taking advantage of their opportunities.

Eleven hundred petitions for citizenship were introduced in the Cherokee senate in a single day last week; and most of these petitioners are undoubtedly Cherokees by blood. Good lord, what is to become of us.

"The powers that be," in this nation, will not allow any one—but themselves—to impose upon the poor Indian. They have a monopoly of the business at present and knowing a good thing when they see it, want to keep it.

HON. R. L. OWEN informs us that the reflections cast upon him (Owen) by a CHIEFTAIN correspondent recently are entirely without foundation. THE CHIEFTAIN is glad to correct any seeming or real injustice done Mr. Owen in this matter and hopes its correspondents will in future confine themselves to the truth.

HOME RULE in this country loses much of its sentiment and romance, under a democratic administration, when we are confronted with the unpleasant fact that most of the offices are yet in the hands of able-bodied pensioners who have succeeded in "working" Uncle Sam for a subsistence from the sweat of other men's faces.

In the case of the adopted white people of this nation, no uncertain sound should be heard. If legislation is had in their behalf, it should be specific and should need no future construction, but should be so plain that "he who runs may read." Their status should be settled finally and settled right. If they are expected to uphold and defend this government they must be made a part of it.

We noticed last week a very interesting interview in the Kansas City Times with ex-Chief Bushyhead on the subject of statehood. The old man's head is as level on that as on most every other question that has any reference to the Cherokee nation or the five tribes. If the five tribes were to unite in one straight Indian government as suggested, ex-Chief Bushyhead would be elected its governor by acclamation.

"CARL B. THOGER," alias J. E. Wolfe, still lives, and having demolished Masonry, proposes now to make a meal off THE CHIEFTAIN. The number of Wolfe's orphans increases in proportion as the Strip payment draws nigh, but the two poor little waifs that came all the way from Oklahoma to enter the orphanage were turned away from this benevolent(?) institution and the city marshal of Vinita raised funds to send the little fellows home again. These two motherless little ones were not Cherokees and therefore could not share in the coming payment; see?

FOR YEARS THE CHIEFTAIN has reached nearly every intelligent person in Delaware and Cooweescoowee districts, but until recently it has made very little effort to reach the masses in the lower districts. Now, with its usual enterprise, it is rapidly extending its circulation in all the districts. No effort or expense will be spared to make it the very best local newspaper possible. In this connection it will not be amiss to call the attention of our friends to the fact that to ask their neighbors and friends to subscribe for the paper would very materially aid us in the good work.

PROTECT THE TREES.

Owners of young orchards who have not provided protection for their trees against rabbits should lose no time in doing so. These little animals when pressed by hunger during the winter, and sometimes in the summer and fall, will attack the tender bark of

young trees. There is nothing so disastrous to the life and future usefulness of the trees as to have the bark gnawed by rabbits. The only sure way of protecting them is to wrap the bodies for a distance of two feet or more from the ground. Fresh blood and other washes have been used but the winter rains not infrequently wash off such substances and leave the trees exposed before the owner knows it. The material used for wrapping is of little consequence if it answers the purpose: Straw or hay, or crab-grass, may be wound into a rope and wrapped from the ground upward. In like manner corn stalks may be cut in lengths about two feet, arranged about the trunks and tied in place. Lath can be used to a good purpose and will last several years but should be removed in spring and stored away for another year. Strips of old muslin or other cloth as well as papers make good wrapping material and are easily and rapidly applied. Nearly all sorts of trees are liable to be damaged by rabbits and therefore all need protection. This is a good job for the boys, where families are so fortunate as to have boys, on fine days in the fall. Newly planted trees are frequently gnawed the very first night after being set, therefore should be wrapped at once.

A CHANGE IS IMPERATIVE.

The question of taxation for the people of this nation is one that sooner or later must be settled in the affirmative. The interest on the invested funds of the nation together with the internal revenues of the country is no longer sufficient to defray the expenses of government. We are rapidly and surely falling behind, getting deeper and deeper in debt every year—an interest bearing debt at that. The old way of paying off public debts by selling off a slice of land for the purpose is now out of the question, as we have no more land to sell and not much to keep. The existence of the nation is dependent upon its means and ability, and we may add willingness, to pay its debts. Those who oppose taxation, and insist on paying the public debt out of the proceeds of the Strip, should consider the propriety of keeping it paid. If enough money was taken out of the Strip fund to pay the outstanding obligations of the nation to-day, the same difficulty would begin to arise to-morrow. Some method of keeping it paid must be devised. Another mode of raising revenue or a revenue from another source must sooner or later be adopted. It has been urged that the fullblood Indian was averse to paying tax; that being unused to it would not be willing to undertake it. Our answer to this objection is that ninety-nine fullbloods out of every hundred would be exempt from taxation under a law that provided a fair and equitable system of exemptions. One-fourth of one per cent. of the personal property of the nation would not only pay the present debt, but keep it paid. And not only this, but a good sum could be added to the school and other funds yearly and thus keep all the departments of the government in a healthy condition. Our expenses can never be less than they are now. All the various ramifications of government are extending and it will take more money each year to meet the exigencies that will necessarily arise. The Cherokees are as able to run their government by a direct tax as the people of any state in the union and the present necessity for doing so is too apparent to need demonstration.

GOES TO DR. PRICE.

World's Fair Jury Decides in His Favor.

CHICAGO, Nov. 22.—On the analysis and recommendation of Dr. Wiley, Chief United States Government Chemist at Washington, and greatest living authority on food products, the World's Fair jury to day gave the highest award to Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder for strength, purity and excellence. This conclusively settles the question of superiority Dr. Wiley rejected the alum powder, stating to the World's Fair jury that he considered them unwholesome.

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THE CHEROKEE COUNCIL.

A Connected Account of the Proceedings of both Houses.

TUESDAY, 14TH—SENATE.

Tuesday evening, the 14th, Chief Harris sent a message to the senate transmitting a letter from F. C. Boudinot, stating that the English copies of the new law books would be ready for delivery by the last of the week but that on account of his printers being carried away to Fort Smith, charged with introducing whisky, the Cherokee copies would not be ready before the middle of December.

Senator Sanders, of Cooweescoowee district, introduced a bill to grant a divorce to Lone Henry, wife of J. C. Henry who is now in the penitentiary. After much discussion pro and con the bill passed the senate by a close vote.

HOUSE.

Acts to readmit Mrs. Zena Brown and E. E. Clingan to citizenship passed the house. Mr. Woodall's bill to repeal certain sections of the law regulating intermarriage of Cherokees with non-citizens met a woeful defeat by a vote of 6 to 28.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH—SENATE.

After the hour for petitions and resolutions was over, Senator Benge, of Tahlequah, introduced bill to transfer the jurisdiction of the supreme court in criminal cases to the circuit courts. The bill was read and interpreted and tabled until the regular time for the second reading.

A joint resolution relating to the babies started in the senate some time ago, went to the house, was concurred in with some amendments and returned to the senate and the amendments of the house were concurred in after which it was sent to the executive department. It is as follows:

Be it resolved by the national council; that children born to persons, citizens of the Cherokee nation, since the census was taken and up to the time of the completion of the work of the joint committee revising the census rolls, shall be entitled to be enrolled, on the census rolls of their respective districts, with their parent or parents as the case may be, by the joint committees as provided for in the act approved April 15, 1893.

Be it further resolved, that all persons, citizens of the Cherokee nation, having children to be enrolled, shall be required to go before some lawful officer of the Cherokee nation, and certify to their claims under oath and giving race, sex, age, name and family to which they belong, such statement of facts to be forwarded to the joint committees of the national council for their information; and provided the same is satisfactory to the said committees, they will then register said child.

Be it further resolved, that should any member of any one of the respective joint committees know of the existence of a child or children as the case may be, that has been born to persons, citizens of the Cherokee nation, since the census of the Cherokee nation was taken, said child or children may be placed on the census rolls without a sworn statement of the parents of such child or children, provided that any member of such joint committee may be qualified as to the existence of such child or children.

At the suggestion of the chief, by special message, a joint session was held Wednesday night to receive the old, old sword once carried by Chief Bowles of the Texas band of Cherokees, from Clinton lodge of Masons through the hands of Wm. Barker, Canadian district. Judge Barker presented the sword in an appropriate address to which the president of the senate responded and the ancient trophy of victory was next day voted to be placed in the executive office.

THURSDAY, 16TH.

Before noon very little business was transacted. An act to incorporate the town of Catoosa passed the house.

The agony is over. The senate and council met in joint session and elected the following officers: R. W. Walker, Associate Justice Supreme Court; S. R. Walkingstick, Auditor Public Accounts; George Butler, Editor Cherokee Advocate; Nakedhead, Tadpole and Blackfox, Executive Councilors, after which election joint session was dissolved and both houses adjourned.

FRIDAY, 17TH.

Receiving petitions was the principal business. In the afternoon Senator Sanders, of Cooweescoowee, introduced the following bill:

An act to repeal an act entitled an act to protect the public domain and for the purpose of revenue:

Be it enacted by the national council, that the act entitled an act to protect the public domain, and for the purpose of revenue, approved December 2d, 1889, be and the same is hereby repealed. Be it further enacted, That it shall be unlawful for any citizen or citizens of the Cherokee nation to ship or otherwise convey prairie hay beyond the limits of the Cherokee nation or sell the same to a citizen of the United States. Be it further enacted, That any citizen or citizens violating the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction in the district court be fined in any sum not to exceed five hundred dollars, and in default of payment of said fine

be imprisoned in the national prison for any time not to exceed one year and not less than sixty days.

Be it further enacted, That the solicitors shall be allowed one-half of all fines collected under operation of this act.

Be it further enacted, That all laws or parts of laws conflicting with this act are hereby repealed.

SATURDAY, 18TH.

The senate met at 9 a. m. and was engaged in referring petitions for citizenship and numerous claims to the various committees. The house passed a bill to not receive any more petitions for citizenship. Senate and house adjourned until Monday.

MONDAY, 20TH.

When the senate met Senator Sanders, of Saline, presented 347 applications for citizenship, which were referred to the committee on citizenship and many claims were referred to the committee on claims. In the afternoon Senator Gunter introduced the following bill, relating to carrying arms:

"Be it enacted by the national council, that chapter 12, article 19, page 233, compiled laws, be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

That every person who shall carry or cause to be carried, any rifle or shotgun or other fire arms to any place within one-half mile of any precinct during the holding of any election, or within one-half mile of any courthouse during the day of the counting of the votes cast at any election or during the session of any of the courts of this nation, or within one-half mile of any political, religious or social public meeting, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction before the district court shall be imprisoned for any term less than one year, provided that the word "section" in the above shall be construed to mean all the time from the first convention of said courts to the final adjournment thereof, and provided further that nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent any person living or sojourning within one-half mile of any of the foregoing places from hunting as now provided by law, during any of the time mentioned above.

In the afternoon Councillor W. T. Davis, of Delaware district, introduced a bill in the house to abolish the office of superintendent of education and reestablish the board of education. Mr. Gunter's bill and Mr. Davis' bill are both on their second reading and subject to amendment and discussion.

GENERAL COUNCIL NOTES.

"Remarkable; not a single member of either house has been drunk—up to the 18th," writes a correspondent. "Probably a lie," would likely have been a more appropriate heading than "Remarkable."

R. K. Adair, of Cooweescoowee, introduced a bill in the house to establish a citizenship court; it was knocked out in the first inning, the score being 42 to 2.

Sanders, of Cooweescoowee, introduced a bill in the senate last week for the benefit of the cowman—evidently—making it a misdemeanor to cut and ship prairie hay, or sell to a noncitizen. The object, presumably, is to give the cowman an opportunity to feed his cattle. The only argument your correspondent has heard in favor of the bill is that of Shave Alberty, solicitor of the same district, to this effect: "The people won't pay the revenue and you can't make them pay it, so we will deny them the privilege of shipping the hay." If Mr. Alberty, as solicitor, cannot compel the payment of the hay revenue, which is not exorbitant or unreasonable, a regard for propriety should have prevented him from seeking the office; if he has made this discovery since the election he should resign the place.

After much sparring in the senate and house, resolution No. 3 providing for the enrollment of children born since the last census of the Cherokee nation was taken up, passed both houses and is now a law. As the law now stands children may be enrolled up to the time of the completion of the work of revising the rolls.

The is some prospect now that council will revive the old school law providing for a school board of three members. The school system, it is argued would be greatly improved by so doing, and it is proposed to secure the services of the best educators in the country for this board. The school fund will have to be enlarged a good many thousands annually to meet the increased demand, and there is a strong sentiment here in favor of taking part of the Strip money for this purpose; that is, add enough to the present school fund to meet the necessities of the case. Some means should be devised for bringing the public schools in reach of the fullbloods. As it is now, comparatively few of the real Indians are getting the real benefit of the large sums of money yearly expended on our schools.

A delegation to Washington is beginning to be hinted at, and it is the general impression that a strong(?) one will be needed this time sure. The Downing party hope and believe that they will, according to precedent, be represented on the next delegation, but some of the Nationals seem to think that the Downing party don't really know when it is licked. However that may be, it is safe to say a strong delegation will be sent, and from present indications this self-same delegation will be entrusted with the sale of the bonds.

W. R. BADGETT is in St. Louis this week attending Clearing Sales of Dry Goods. Keep your eye on this space; it will contain announcements that will interest you.

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